

How Does the 40-Second Play Clock Affect Schools?

The 40-second play clock should have very little effect on school's administration, operation or facilities. Some confusion exists that implementation of this rule will mandate schools to take on additional mechanical or technological costs. The 40-second clock **does not** require schools to purchase any new clocks or devices. This is how the new rule may affect schools:

Schools with no visible on-field play clock

- No changes whatsoever. The officiating crew will continue to maintain the operation, administration and enforcement of the play clock on the field.

Schools with, or intending to install, a visible on-field play clock

- There is no longer as universal signal for starting the play clock as with the experimental rule. Play clock operators should be looking for signals which identify the conclusion of the play (*i.e., their key to start the play clock*), including:
 - An upward extended arm marking forward progress
 - A “stop the clock” signal
 - An “incomplete pass” signal
 - A “wind the clock” signal indicating the runner remained in-bounds
- It is recommended that schools use a separate play clock and game clock operator so that each individual can look at the officials' signals separately as they apply to their particular clock.
- Schools may be required to update their on-field play clocks with hardware or software that accommodates 25 and 40 seconds (many already have this included).